

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 48

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress and the President should undertake the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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# RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress and the President should undertake the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century.

Whereas the social security program provides benefits to 44,000,000 Americans, including more than 27,000,000 retirees, 5,000,000 people with disabilities, and 2,000,000 surviving children, and is essential to the dignity and security of the Nation's elderly, disabled, and their families;

Whereas the social security program's progressive benefit structure is of particular importance to women, due to their (1) longer life expectancies than men, making social security's lifetime, inflation-adjusted benefits a critical income support especially for widows; (2) lower average earnings; and (3) lower pension and other retirement savings, stemming in part from their lower incomes and their spending an average of 11 years out of the paid workforce caring for families;

Whereas the approaching retirement of the Baby Boom Generation will result in the social security program's benefit costs exceeding its tax revenues beginning in 2013;

Whereas the social security program faces looming insolvency and instability in the next century so that by 2032 the Social Security Trust Funds will be fully depleted and the program will be able to honor less than 75 percent of benefit commitments; and

Whereas prompt action is necessary to restore Americans' confidence that their retirement benefits will be protected: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Congress and the President should  
 2 strengthen and protect the retirement income security of  
 3 all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern  
 4 social security program for the 21st century that—

5           (1) ensures equal treatment across generations  
 6       to all Americans, especially minorities;

7           (2) recognizes the unique obstacles that women  
 8       face in ensuring retirement, disability, and survivor

1 security and the essential role that social security  
2 plays in protecting financial stability for women;

3 (3) provides a continuous benefit safety net for  
4 workers, their survivors, and individuals with disabili-  
5 ties; and

6 (4) protects guaranteed benefits for current re-  
7 tirees and those nearing retirement.

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